

NATIONAL OFFICER/ TASK FORCE REPORT

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I. ACTIVITIES

Description of Health & Environment Adaptive Response Task Force (HEART)

History & aims

Growing numbers of students in Canadian medical schools are identifying the need for medical curricula to equip us with understandings of the relationship between health and climate, as well as the skills to identify and treat adverse health consequences due to environmental exposures. In 2016, HEART arose out of this student-driven movement.

While HEART is part of a strong history of activism for environmental and climate action, we have also historically and presently been part of systems that excluded structurally marginalized communities and their concerns/frameworks/knowledge. In previous years, we started developing a Planetary Health Justice Protocol, co-developed a webinar series on environmental racism, recently reviewed our curricular competencies through a climate justice lens, and this year, implemented a new role for Justice & Indigenous Sovereignty lead. In line with these actions, an explicit goal of HEART's this year is to work toward more accountability to these communities by centering justice & Indigenous sovereignty in each of our subcommittees. Furthermore, we are shifting to developing a subcommittee on Justice & Indigenous Sovereignty to ensure that this important and multi-dimensional work does not fall on one person to push forward.

Structure

HEART is made of five subcommittees or roles, in addition to the two co-chair positions. Each is listed below, along with the number of people present in the role/subcommittee.

- (1) Project Green Healthcare -3 people
- (2) Knowledge Translation -1 person
- (3) Justice & Indigenous Sovereignty -shifting from 1 person to a subcommittee structure with details to be determined.
- (4) Network engagement -2 people

- (a) Social media -1 person
- (b) Lead of Local Officers of Sustainability -1 person
- (5) Curriculum evaluation -3 people

Collaborations

Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) Global Health Portfolio
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
Canadian Coalition of Green Health Care (CCGHC)
IFMSA-Quebec Green Team
IFMSA-Panama Global Health Portfolio
Canadian Coalition of Environmental & Climate Justice (CCECJ)
Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE)

Project Green Healthcare (PGH)

PGH consists of a yearly cohort of teams from various Canadian medical schools who partner with local hospitals to develop and implement green quality improvement projects. The goal of this subcommittee is to provide optimal support to all PGH teams. For 2022, the subcommittee has hosted the Community of Practice meeting, applied for a source of funding for PGH teams, and has amplified the work of teams via social media. Furthermore, the subcommittee is developing a centralized resource hub of deliverables, while also compiling the results of previous projects.

In line with our priority to integrate a justice & Indigenous sovereignty agenda in all our subcommittees and roles, PGH has been developing critical land acknowledgements at its Community of Practice meetings. Furthermore, the team has been working to develop questions in its team reporting questionnaires on how their project aligns with principles of planetary health justice. Lastly, in the next round of applications, they will be integrating a question on planetary health justice in the assessment matrix.

Knowledge Translation

The knowledge translation role is working with IFMSA-QC's Green Team on their Meatless Mondays social media initiative. Relating to our focus on anti-oppression, they are developing a distributable infographic on the need to recognize that a meatless option is not feasible for all communities, such as those whose traditional diets consist largely of meats, given their environments and practices. Furthermore, they have been developing a direct action calendar to document and share various environmental initiatives taking place across so-called Canada. They are also working with the co-chair role to further develop theory and practice for medical education at the intersections of anti-oppression and environmental health. In terms of next steps, the knowledge translation role will continue work on these projects, while developing a speaker series in collaboration with team members.

Relating to these latter initiatives embedded in anti-oppression, HEART's subcommittee on Justice & Indigenous Sovereignty has been developing collaborations with the Canadian Coalition of Environmental & Climate Justice (CCECJ). As such, the knowledge translation role has been co-developing a social media strategy for a national action campaign led by the CCECJ and the ENRICH Project.

Justice & Indigenous Sovereignty

This initially started as a role but is now transitioning into a subcommittee to ensure that the weight of this important and extensive work does not fall on any one individual. The first project for this subcommittee is the national action campaign referred to above. The campaign's purpose is to advocate on a federal level for passing [Bill C-226](#): An Act respecting the development of a national strategy to assess, prevent and address environmental racism and to advance environmental justice. The subcommittee has been developing a social media strategy to mobilize medical students, physicians, and others within and outside the healthcare fields to confirm support of federal MPs for the next reading in the House of Commons.

In addition to this project, the overall aim of this committee will be to ally itself with communities at the margins to recognize and recognize the inextricable ties between anti-oppression and environmental/climate health. Part of this initiative involves beginning to develop collaborations with groups working on environmental and climate justice, particularly led by marginalized communities, themselves. It also involves increased communications and collaborations with student groups led by marginalized communities as well, as HEART is attempting to address some of unconscious, systemic biases. Lastly, to develop a long-term plan for the subcommittee and HEART as a whole, they will also work toward developing a Justice & Indigenous Sovereignty protocol to serve as a guide for future HEART cohorts.

Network Engagement

The network engagement subcommittee has been working on connecting and engaging with CFMS student membership and building a stronger, more engaged community. One method through which they are doing so is updating the design of the newsletter to allow for more engagement. Furthermore, they are providing prompting questions in newsletters to engage people via social media, highlighting HEART members each month, and promoting local initiatives from Local Officers of Sustainability. Additionally, there is more intention around centering Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities, including students, in efforts. Relating to this, the subcommittee has been working to highlight Indigenous climate knowledge and activism, acknowledging that Indigenous communities are often at the forefront of climate action and it is vital for settlers to center and learn from Indigenous communities.

Curriculum Evaluation

In 2021, HEART members updated the learning competencies with an emphasis on climate justice & Indigenous sovereignty. This year, the curriculum evaluation subcommittee developed and included metrics on climate justice & Indigenous sovereignty in the CFMS curriculum evaluation. This evaluation has since been distributed to all medical schools in so-called Canada. Following completion of these evaluations, the subcommittee will analyze and compile findings. They will then draft a report that is to be distributed to all medical schools in so-called Canada.

Furthermore, the committee is working on further aligning its work with the Planetary Health Report Card, identifying the strengths of each evaluation and facilitating the process for students and faculty who will be engaging in this assessment. A longer-term goal of the subcommittee is to support local officers of sustainability and other medical students as they engage in curriculum changes and dialogue with faculty on such changes.

Involvement with HEART

HEART welcomes anyone to attend our bi-weekly meetings. We are currently recruiting for our subcommittee on Justice & Indigenous Sovereignty but are also open to people joining the other areas of HEART as well.

II. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Date	Meeting	Location
December 2021 - present	Bi-weekly (once every 2 weeks) meetings with HEART committee, along with subcommittee/role-specific meetings that are interspersed between bi-weekly meetings	Online
January 12, 2022	CFMS Global Health Portfolio -National Officers Orientation	Online
February 6, 2022	IFMSA-Quebec Green Team meeting	Online
February 7, 2022	CFMS Global Health Portfolio -Weekly Planning meeting	Online
February 9, 2022	CFMS Global Health Portfolio -Monthly Planning meeting	Online
February 15, 2022	IFMSA-Panama Global Health Portfolio	Online
February 17, 2022	The Canadian Coalition for Environmental & Climate	Online

	Justice (CCECJ) -Introductions meeting	
February 17, 2022	Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE)	Online
February 28, 2022	Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) -Introductions meeting	Online
March 6, 2022	CFMS Global Health Portfolio -Monthly Planning meeting	Online
March 8, 2022	The Canadian Coalition for Environmental & Climate Justice (CCECJ) -Collaboration meeting	Online
March 29, 2022	CFMS Global Health Portfolio -Monthly Planning meeting	Online

III. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, HEART has four primary goals for this year.

- (1) Prioritize environmental/climate justice & Indigenous sovereignty in all areas of HEART's work (curricular competencies and evaluations, Project Green Healthcare, knowledge translation, and network engagement).
 - Develop a subcommittee for justice.
 - Strengthen HEART's praxis, which includes theory, as one that is moving toward anti-oppression
 - Increase representation in HEART of students from marginalized communities.
 - Develop collaborations with environmental and climate justice community groups that are led by and for marginalized communities.
 - Develop an environmental/climate justice & Indigenous sovereignty protocol for HEART.
- (2) Serve as a national hub for environmental projects and initiatives led by medical students across Canada, avoiding the re-invention of initiatives that already exist.
- (3) Develop and strengthen collaborations with medical environmental groups in the Quebec, Canadian, and international settings.
- (4) Develop a 1-year and 5-year strategic plan to guide short-, medium-, and long-term directions within HEART.